



# Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

March 23, 2020

In light of on-going COVID-19 concerns and Governor Hutchinson's recent State of Emergency Declaration, the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners recommends that it is up to the chiropractic physician to determine whether their office closes or remains open. This recommendation is subject to change at the discretion of the Governor and Secretary of Health.

Arkansas Department of Health recommends that procedures, testing, and office visits that can be safely postponed should be rescheduled to an appropriate future date. Delaying treatment is especially recommended for high-risk patients who meet any of the following criteria:

- Patients and visitors who have a temperature of 100.4° F or greater, cough, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- Aged 65 and older
- Have compromised immune systems and/or present with chronic disease (ASA 2 and above)
- Returned from international travel within past 14 days

Universal precautions are to be strictly followed in order to minimize the possibility of disease transmission. Here are several suggestions:

- Magazines and children's toys be removed from your waiting room areas to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- Providing a single sign-in sheet per patient and/or sanitizing digital screens and/or stylus after each patient.
- Make sure your office is being sanitized more frequently and making sure that exam tables, rooms, etc., are being sanitized after each patient following the manufacture instructions.
- Instruct your patients and staff to practice social distancing in the waiting room and/or have some wait in their cars or work out some other alternative waiting room procedure.

Recommended strategies for employers to use now, for any infectious disease:

- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home.
- Employees who become ill should be sent home.
- Emphasize respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all employees.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning following the manufacture instructions.
- Advise employees before traveling to take certain steps.

Collective actions taken by the community can help deter the proliferation of the COVID-19 virus in Arkansas. By rescheduling high-risk patients, professionals can do our part to prevent community

spread, as well as help to preserve the limited supply of personal protective equipment that is critical for frontline healthcare personnel responding to this pandemic.

**For the most up-to-date information and support, visit our website: [www.healthy.arkansas.gov](http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov)**

**For the most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19 in Arkansas, visit:**  
<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus>

For questions regarding this guidance, please call 1-844-930-3023.